



MEDIA RELEASE

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USD 50 million Project in Barbados to enhance health, well-being, and productivity

(City of Belmopan, Belize) The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) joined efforts with the Government of Barbados and the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) to officially launch The R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) for Climate Resilience Wastewater Systems in Barbados (3R-CReWS) project on Friday, June 9, 2023.

The USD 50 million 3R-CReWS project will support the adaptation of Barbados to the water scarcity conditions that are expected to be worsened by climate variability and change. It also aims to reduce carbon footprints and Green House Gas (GHGs) emissions and ultimately contribute to the enhancement of the health, well-being, and productivity of the people of Barbados.

Speaking at the launch were Senator the Hon. Dr. Shantal Munro-Knight, Barbados' Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr Keithroy Halliday, General Manager at the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) and Dr Colin Young, Executive Director of the CCCCC.

In his address, Dr Young told the audience that as an accredited entity to the GCF, the CCCCC stood ready to “coordinate, collaborate and execute, this project as a delivery partner alongside the BWA”.

The Project serves as a practical example for the Caribbean where climate-resilient water and wastewater management systems, treated wastewater reuse, and aquifer recharge will upgrade the wastewater treatment process to the tertiary level.

Dr Young took the opportunity to outline the co-benefits of the project which he itemized as “greater availability of water for the agricultural sector; improved water quality in the marine environment which will elevate the treatment and management of wastewater to tertiary standards; improved air quality from reduced GHG emissions and increased participation of women in the production of reclaimed water.”

“The outcomes from this project, upon its successful completion, will make water more accessible through investment in the circular economy by using carbon neutral and climate-resilient water and energy management technologies that ensure that water is protected, managed, recycled, reduced and conserved”, Dr Young underscored.

The upgrade of the Treatment Plant is also significant in terms of the impact on the economy, said Ms. Tracey Hanson, Project Manager of the 3R-CReWS at the CCCCC. “Barbados, like many SIDS, cannot ignore the potential for climate change to impact its limited existing groundwater resources and the need to engage in adaptive and mitigation strategies. A tertiary wastewater facility is essential to provide reliable water supply services to households and maintain the economic viability of industries that depend on water, such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and construction” she said, during her presentation on the project, also during the launch in Barbados.

Attendees at the launch included representatives from the Government of Barbados, the private sector, partner institutions and academia, who participated in a site tour of the Bridgetown Sewage Treatment Plant following the Project inauguration.

The CCCCCs through the Green Climate Fund, have to date invested over USD 68M in grant resources, across two projects, to build the resilience of Barbados’s water sector to the effects of climate change. At the same time, the Government of Barbados and the Barbados Water Authority have provided co-financing of over USD 30M to these two projects.

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The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre is an inter-governmental Caribbean Community (CARICOM) institution that is mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government to coordinate the Region’s response to climate change. We maintain the Caribbean’s most extensive repository of information and data on climate change specific to the region, which in part enables us to provide climate change-related policy advice and guidelines to CARICOM Member States. In this role, the Centre is recognized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme, and other international agencies as the focal point for climate change issues in the Caribbean. The Centre is also one of the few institutions recognized as a Centre of Excellence by United Nations Institute for Training and Research. CCCCC is empowering the Caribbean Community to act on climate change.